

CLAIM STATUS:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled);

Claim 8 (currently amended). A stationary phase for high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis using a mobile phase, said stationary phase comprising

a rigid supporting material having a surface;

an ion bearing functional group and a hydrophobic functional group connected together;

said ion bearing functional group being chemically attached directly to the rigid supporting material and said hydrophobic functional group being indirectly connected relative to the rigid supporting material surface via its connection to the ion bearing functional group; and

said hydrophobic functional group forming a permeable stationary layer shielding said ion bearing functional group from full contact with the mobile phase.